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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Giorgio Mari

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EXAMINER

KIM, SUN U

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/527,451	Applicant(s) MARI ET AL.	
	Examiner JOHN KIM	Art Unit 1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-11 and 20-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. Claims 12-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/24/08.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9-11 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al (US Patent No. 5,128,048) in view of Gsell et al (US Patent No. 5,258,127).

Regarding claim 1, Stewart et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components comprising a collecting container (16), a first satellite container (32) connected, in fluid flow communication, to said collecting container (16) through a leukocyte filter (36), a second satellite container (28) connected, in fluid flow communication, with said collecting container (16) wherein the second satellite container (28) is connected to said collecting container (16) through said leukocyte filter (36), flow control means (50, 52) being provided for allowing fluid flow from said collecting container (16) selectively into said first (32) or second (28) satellite container through said leukocyte filter (36) (see figures 2-3; col. 4, line 49 – col. 8, line 37). Stewart et al further teach that said second satellite container (28) is further connected to said collecting container (16) through conduit means (38) by-passing said filter (36), the flow control means (48, 49) being further capable of allowing fluid flow from said second satellite container (28) into said collecting container (16) only through said conduit means (38) by-

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passing said filter (36) by opening clamp (49) and closing clamp (48) (see figures 2, 4; col. 8, lines 19-27). Claimed flow control means comprises multiple clamps (48, 49, 50, 52). Materials such as blood, PRP, PRC, WB in claim 1 worked upon by the device is not given patentable weight in the apparatus claims.

“Expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim.” *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666, 667 (Bd. App. 1969). Furthermore, “[i]nclusion of material or article worked upon by a structure being claimed does not impart patentability to the claims.” *In re Young*, 75 F.2d 996, 25 USPQ 69 (CCPA 1935) (as restated in *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963)).

Claim 1 essentially differs from the device of Stewart et al in reciting a leukocyte filter being configured to filter leukocytes and to allow platelets to pass therethrough. Stewart et al suggests that the transfer assembly (14) can be used to remove all types of undesired materials from different type blood cells, depending upon its particular construction (see col. 5, lines 19-22). Stewart et al teach a leukocyte filter that removes leukocytes and preferably also platelets from red blood cells prior to storage (see col. 5, lines 23-25). Gsell et al teach a fibrous leukocyte filter which removes leukocytes from a leukocyte containing liquid including red blood cells and platelet rich plasma (PRP)(see col. 1, lines 56-60; col. 3, lines 43-58). Gsell et al further teaches the importance of removing leukocytes from leukocyte containing liquid in that leukocytes contribute to harmful medical conditions (see col. 1, lines 47-54). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the leukocyte filter of Stewart et al with the leukocyte filter of Gsell et al for beneficial removal of leukocytes from PRP prior to platelets storage.

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Regarding claim 3, Stewart et al teach that the second satellite container (28) includes a blood additive “A” (see figure 2) and the flow control means (49, 48, 50, 52) are capable of achieving claimed steps by sheer locations of the flow control means in the respective conduits (see figures 2-4). Note that claim 3 has method steps for flow control means. Flow control means should be claimed as proper means plus function claim to consider the method steps with patentable weight. As presently claimed, the method steps in claim 3 is an intended use of the flow control means. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Regarding claim 4, Stewart et al teach first conduit means (26) connecting said collecting container (16) to said first satellite container (32) through said leukocyte filter (36), second conduit means branching off from said first conduit means (26) downstream of said leukocyte filter (36), thereby to connect said collecting container (16) to said second satellite container (16), and by-pass conduit means (38) branching off from said first conduit means (26), upstream of said leukocyte filter (36) and connected to said second conduit means (see figure 2).

Regarding claims 7 and 10, Stewart et al teach manually operated clamps (46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 54) (see col. 7, lines 29-33) associated with a separator device (36).

Regarding claim 9, Stewart et al teach clamp (50) i.e. valve means in the second conduit means leading to the second satellite container (28) (see figure 2).

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Regarding claim 11, Stewart et al teach a third satellite container (30) connected in fluid flow communication with the first satellite container (32) (see figure 2).

Regarding claim 21, Stewart et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components comprising a collecting container (16), a first satellite container (32) connected, in fluid flow communication, to said collecting container (16) through a leukocyte filter (36) via a first satellite container conduit (26), a second satellite container (28) connected, in fluid flow communication, with said collecting container (16) through a leukocyte filter (36) via a second satellite container conduit, a plurality of valves (48, 49, 50, 52) that selectively control fluid flow associated with the collection container (16), the first satellite container (32) and the second satellite container (28), a bypass conduit (38) that bypasses the leukocyte filter (36) and maintains the fluid communication between the collecting container (16) and the second satellite container (28) (see figures 2-3; col. 4, line 49 – col. 8, line 37). Stewart et al further teach that the flow control means (48, 49) being further capable of allowing fluid flow from said second satellite container (28) into said collecting container (16) only through the bypass conduit (38) by opening clamp (49) and closing clamp (48) (see figures 2, 4; col. 8, lines 19-27). Materials such as blood, PRP, PRC, WB in claim 1 worked upon by the device is not given patentable weight in the apparatus claims.

“Expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim.” *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666, 667 (Bd. App. 1969). Furthermore, **“[i]nclusion of material or article worked upon by a structure being claimed does not impart patentability to the claims.”** *In re Young*, 75 F.2d 996, 25 USPQ 69 (CCPA 1935) (as restated in *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963)).

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Claim 21 essentially differs from the device of Stewart et al in reciting a leukocyte filter being configured to filter whole blood so as to remove leukocytes from the whole blood and allow platelets to pass therethrough. Stewart et al suggests that the transfer assembly (14) can be used to remove all types of undesired materials from different type blood cells, depending upon its particular construction (see col. 5, lines 19-22). Stewart et al teach a leukocyte filter that removes leukocytes and preferably also platelets from red blood cells prior to storage (see col. 5, lines 23-25). Gsell et al teach a fibrous leukocyte filter which removes leukocytes from a leukocyte containing liquid including red blood cells (RBC) and platelet rich plasma (PRP)(see col. 1, lines 56-60; col. 3, lines 43-58). Gsell et al further teaches the importance of removing leukocytes from leukocyte containing liquid in that leukocytes contribute to harmful medical conditions (see col. 1, lines 47-54). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the leukocyte filter of Stewart et al with the leukocyte filter of Gsell et al for beneficial removal of leukocytes from PRP prior to platelets storage.

Regarding claim 22, Stewart et al teach a three-way conduit connector in the second satellite container conduit (see figure 2). Claim 22 essentially differs from the device of Stewart et al in reciting a valve located in the second satellite container conduit between the leukocyte filter and the three-way conduit connector. Stewart et al teach that the valves (48, 49) being further capable of allowing RBC from said second satellite container (28) into said collecting container (16) only through the bypass conduit (38) by opening clamp (49) and closing clamp (48) (see figures 2, 4; col. 8, lines 19-27). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate additional valve between the

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leukocyte filter and the three-way conduit connector in the device of Stewart et al to ensure bypassing of RBC from the second satellite container (28) to the collection container (16 or 18) via bypass conduit (38) by closing the additional valve.

Regarding claim 23, Stewart et al teach manually operated hose clamps (46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 54) (see col. 7, lines 29-33).

4. Claims 5-6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Corbin et al (WO 03/063930 A1). Stewart et al in view of Gsell et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components as described in above paragraph. Claims 5-6 and 20 essentially differ from the device of Stewart et al in reciting a sensor means controlling electromagnetic valve means for controlling the flow of components to respective satellite container by detection of the presence of blood component such as PRC. Corbin et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components comprising an optical sensor for detecting color of the blood components to close or open clamps (31, 32) on one or more branches (35, 36) to direct particular components to either a satellite bag (7) or a satellite bag (8) (see figure 5; page 17, lines 1-21). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a sensor means to control electromagnetic valve means in the device of Stewart et al for controlling the flow of components to respective satellite container by detection of the presence of blood component such as PRC as suggested by Corbin et al (see figure 5; page 17, lines 1-21).

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Bischof et al (US Patent No. 7,264,608 B2). Stewart et al in view of Gsell et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components as

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described in above paragraph. Claim 8 essentially differs from the device of Stewart et al in reciting a one-way valve provided in by-pass conduit allowing fluid flow only from second satellite container to collecting container. Bischof et al teach a device for separating blood into blood components comprising a one-way valve (V) provided in by-pass conduit (46) allowing fluid flow only from a satellite container (40) to collecting container (14) (see figures 2A-2B; col. 8, lines 32-47). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a one-way valve provided in by-pass conduit in the device of Stewart et al for allowing fluid flow only from second satellite container to collecting container so to prevent fluid flow in opposite direction as suggested by Bischof et al (see col. 8, lines 43-47).

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-11 and 20-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-1142. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on 571-272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John Kim/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

JK
1/26/10